

Notice of Allowability

| Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 10/776,287 | SASAGAWA, YUKIHIRO |
| Examiner | Art Unit |
| Alexander Sofocleous | 2824 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to Amendment filed February 22, 2006.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8, 13-31.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152).
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other updated EAST search history.

Mauro
Tuan T. Nguyen 3/16/06

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the following communication: the Amendment filed February 22, 2006.
2. Claims 1-8 and 13-31 are pending in the case. Claims 9-12 are cancelled. Claims 6 and 26-31 are currently amended. Claims 1, 6, 13, 17, 21, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31 are independent claims.

Specification

3. The proposed specification corrections received on February 22, 2006 are approved by Examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. **Claims 1-8 and 13-31 are allowed.**
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent claim 1, 13, 17, and 21, and 26-31 (each amended with all limitations of claim 21), the prior art of record fail to teach or disclose a variation detection means that outputs a variation detection signal that depends on a state variation in the master cell and generates a clock signal to apply to the slave cell based on that variation detection signal.

Regarding independent claim 6, the prior art of record fail to teach or disclose

a memory element with a first output being the output of the latch and a second output being the variation detector output; where the variation detector output indicates content (or state) change of the master cell.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Applicant asserts that Denham et al. does not show the memory element having two outputs – a signal from a latch circuit and a signal from a variation detection circuit (Applicant's arguments, page 19, lines 1-4). The rejection of claim 6 has been withdrawn for the following reason: Denham et al. show a latch (Fig. 8 [711]) with a comparator (Fig. 7 [716]) that compares the input of the latch with the output of the latch. The output from the comparator, separate from the output of the latch, is used internally to drive a pulse generator that provides a clock to the same latch; the flip-flop circuit (Fig. 7 [70]) has only one output. There is no implication that the state change of the latch (output from the comparator) is significant to other circuitry outside of the flip-flop circuit; therefore, it is Examiner's position that the limitation of two outputs from the memory element, the first output being the output state of the memory element and the second output being the variation detection signal, is not met or taught by Denham et al.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander Sofocleous whose telephone number is 571-272-0635. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:00am - 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Elms can be reached on 571-272-1869. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2824

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AGS

Mauryman
Tuan T. Nguyen
3/16/06